

## Arterial Scrapbook No. 46



**REPRIEVED BUT STILL DOOMED** - The building immediately north of the New York Central overhead on Bridge St. is on the demolition list for the arterial program but has been granted an extension of a few months while the Kaiser Boswell Co. awaits completion of its new headquarters at Bridge and Center Sts. The stay is of benefit, too, to the Montgomery County Trust Co. which has maintained thermometer service in the

center of a large and effective sign on the north side of the doomed building. This structure has been standing for 85 years, a couple of decades before Bridge St. was given the sharp grade to the overhead crossing of the Central tracks. Other occupants of the building have moved on and the heating and roofing company that has been the owner for 45 years will soon be taking off for the south side. (Donlon)

## Doomed 85-Year-Old Bridge St. Building

## Gets Reprieve

The building on the west side of Bridge St. in recent years known as the Kaiser-Boswell Block, dates from 1881 when it was erected by Delos B. Lewis, operator of a Bridge St. grocery store. Mr. Lewis, one of Amsterdam's earlier community leaders, was chairman of the building committee for the First Baptist Church in 1901.

This building at the time of its construction in 1881 was at the level of Main St. and also the level of the tracks of the New York Central which maintained a grade crossing at this point. When the railroad overhead was constructed in 1896, the building lost its first floor in buildup of Bridge St. and since that time has had a cellar and sub-cellar on the south end.

### Salvation Army Headquarters

During the early part of the century, the building was purchased by the Salvation Army and the Army headquarters was located here for many years. Last owner prior to condemnation by New York State

was the Kaiser-Boswell Co. that purchased it from the Salvation Army on Dec. 15, 1919. The Army moved headquarters to East Main St. at the time.

The heating and roofing company had been located in the building for many years under the Kaiser-Frydenborg name, and had also maintained a warehouse in the former Stanton Brewery extending along the New York Central between Lark and Swan Sts.

Many names familiar to Amsterdam business are connected with the 85-year-old building. One of the longest established was the Manhattan Restaurant, at No. 9 Bridge, operated by George F. Cockburn from 1915, when he purchased it from Thomas B. Sammons and Oscar N. Crounse, to 1933.

### Haircuts and Signs

At the most southerly end, high on the ramp and identified as No. 11 Bridge was the barber shop of Peter Cellini who quit in the mid-20's after a quarter of a century. His successors at the Bridge St. shop were Michael Fratangelo and, after him, Joseph Vitale.

Signs have been another product of the building from the late '20's when Charles G. Barrow used a section of the second

used a section of the second floor, north. John F. Harvey & Sons were the next sign painters to take over and the sons have been at the location until recently. Other listings in earlier directories included: Charles Nathan, tailor; John Chism, and Andrew Zapp, cushions.

The property is spacious, with 75 foot frontage on Bridge and depth of 100 feet. Before the street was raised to meet the railroad overhead grade the Salvation Army-Kaiser Boswell building also had right of way along the north end of the building the alley leading to West Main St. via the rear of the W. N. Carpenter Bldg. Demolition operations should uncover more of the Amsterdam underground, as happened to the block on the east side of Bridge St.